

Important information for parents about how to prepare your scout for any merit badge program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park!



Be sure that you are familiar with the requirements for the merit badge your scout has selected. Some badges can be are very demanding and may take considerable time and planning to complete. Some badges are not appropriate for younger scouts.

Most Merit Badges are not designed to be completed in a single session with an instructor, so it is not always possible to walk away with a completed and signed blue card at the end a program. Every badge requires some independent work by your scout. We call this “pre-work” because, if these requirements are performed **prior** to our program, we can complete and sign the merit badge card. Otherwise we will sign partial cards at the completion of our program and will have qualified counselors review assignments on an individual basis at a later date. Note you will have to contact and schedule an appointment with an appropriate staff member to do this. Not all staff members are qualified for all badges.

Merit badges are also supposed to be done with the buddy system. ***We strongly recommend that parents attend the program with your scout especially if he does not have a buddy.*** There is never a fee for adults and you are sure to learn something. The program will not proceed if there are not 2 or more adults present, especially for programs that include hikes. We will attempt to enlist adult volunteers from our center but this is not always possible so ***prepare for the possibility that you may have to stay for the program and not just drop off your scout.*** This will allow the instructor to concentrate more fully on the difficult task of imparting all the required information and assisting the boys individually if necessary, while other adults keep the atmosphere calm and productive.

Be sure your scout is dressed appropriately for being outdoors for some or all of the program time. Packing water and snacks is wise for long programs and programs scheduled in hot weather months.

Lastly, obtaining copies of the scout resource booklet for the merit badge can help prepare your scout working with his counselor and for completing any independent study. Books for the badges can be ordered at your local scouting store or at www.scoutstuff.org .

Thank you! And best wishes for success to your scout.

MAMMAL STUDY MERIT BADGE



BE PREPARED: The Mammal Study Merit Badge program is three hours long, depending on the weather, all of this time may be spent outside on the trails, making observations. Dress for the weather, bring water, a high-energy snack such as trail gorp is also recommended.

While for many badges, pre-work may be necessary in order to complete the program within the time allotted, for the Mammal Study program it is more a matter of the scouts' individual preferences regarding what he wishes to learn or do for the badge.

IF YOU WISH TO COMPLETE THE BADGE VIA PRE-WORK:

- Complete requirement #3, option c: From study and reading, write a simple history of one nongame mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants and other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it. Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind. (Note this can be done as PRE-WORK).
- Build a bat or squirrel box and bring it to the program, to complete requirement #5.

POST-WORK ALTERNATIVES:

- Complete requirement #3, option a. The first three hours of study will be completed in the course of the program where scouts will also learn what signs reveal the activities of mammals in an area. Scouts can then apply these skills and make observations in your backyard, in a different park, or in a different habitat within EC Lawrence Park (ask you counselor about this last option).
- Either as a group or individually, decide on a project with your counselor. Projects can include building nesting boxes for mammals species, but there are other possibilities depending on opportunities that may be present at the park, or individual resources and interests the scout may have.

MAMMAL STUDY MERIT BADGE



Requirements

1. Explain the meaning of "animal," "invertebrate," "vertebrate," and "mammal." Name three characteristics that distinguish mammals from all other animals.
2. Explain how the animal kingdom is classified. Explain where mammals fit in the classification of animals. Classify three mammals from phylum through species.
3. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. **Spend three hours in each of two different kinds of natural habitats or at different elevations. List the different mammal species and individual members that you identified by sight or sign. Tell why all mammals do not live in the same kind of habitat.**
 - b. Spend three hours on each of five days on at least a 25-acre area (about the size of 3 1/2 football fields). List the mammal species you identified by sight or sign.
 - c. *From study and reading, write a simple history of one nongame mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants and other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it. Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind. ***
4. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Under the guidance of a nature center or natural history museum, make two study skins of rats or mice. Tell the uses of study skins and mounted specimens respectively.
 - b. Take good pictures of two kinds of mammals in the wild. Record light conditions, film used, exposure, and other factors, including notes on the activities of the pictured animals.
 - c. Write a life history of a native game mammal that lives in your area, covering the points outlined in requirement 3c. List sources for this information.
 - d. Make and bait a tracking pit. Report what mammals and other animals came to the bait.
 - e. Visit a natural history museum. Report on how specimens are prepared and cataloged. Explain the purposes of museums.
 - f. Write a report of 500 words on a book about a mammal species.
 - g. **Trace two possible food chains of carnivorous mammals from soil through four stages to the mammal.**
5. *Working with your counselor, select and carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals. ***

**** Can be done as pre-work.**

MAMMAL STUDY MERIT BADGE



Resources

Books


- Alderton, David. *Foxes, Wolves, and Wild Dogs of the World*. Sterling, 1998.
- Barkhausen, Annette, and Franz Geiser. *Rabbits and Hares*. Gareth Stevens, 1994.
- Bowen, Betsy. *Tracks in the Wild*. Little, Brown, 1993.
- Chinery, Michael, ed. *The Kingfisher Illustrated Encyclopedia of Animals: From Aardvark to Zorille--and 2,000 Other Animals*. Kingfisher Books, 1992.
- Carwardine, Mark, et al. *Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises*. Nature Company: Time-Life Books, 1998.
- Graham, Gary L. *Bats of the World*. St. Martin's Press, 2001.
- Hare, Tony. *Animal Fact File: Head-to-Tail Profiles of More Than 100 Animals*. Facts On File, 1999.
- Hodge, Deborah. *Deer, Moose, Elk, and Caribou*. Kids Can Press, 1999.
- Lumpkin, Susan. *Small Cats*. Facts On File, 1993.
- Miller, Sara Swan. *Rodents: From Mice to Muskrats*. Franklin Watts, 1998.
- Whitaker, John O. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mammals*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1996.
- Zim, Herbert Spencer, and Donald F. Hoffmeister. *Mammals: A Guide to Familiar American Species*. Golden Press, 1987.

Organizations and Web Sites

Bat Conservation International

Web site: <http://www.batcon.org> 

Conservation and Resource Center

Web site: <http://www.si.edu/crc> 

National Audubon Society

Web site: <http://www.audubon.org> 

National Wildlife Federation

Web site: <http://www.nwf.org> 